

# CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. Lt. Col. Slavin recently returned from Moscow to Berlin. He is said to have given instructions\* to the SED press to emphasize the slogan "Normalization of the life of Berlin" and to urge the restoration of the city's unity, while avoiding any vigorous attack on the administration of the western sectors. At the same time he assured the party journalists that they could count on the continuance of opposition by the French High Commissioner Francois-Poncet to the inclusion of Berlin in the Federal Republic. On the contrary, according to Slavin, the economic difficulties of Berlin will increase so fast in the coming months that collaboration with the eastern zone will be welcomed.

2. Slavin often sees Colonel Ravoux, the former control officer with the Kurier in Berlin, who is now "press chief" under Francois-Poncet. Before the war, when Ravoux was Havas correspondent in Berlin and Slavin was also employed there (whether by a newspaper or by the Soviet Embassy), the two men were acquainted; and they resumed their association after the war. [REDACTED] out that the GNB and ADN were extremely well informed as to the French attitude throughout the Berlin crisis, and suggests that this is the result of the friendship between Slavin and Ravoux. At a time when it was supposed that the troops of the western powers might be withdrawn from Berlin, Ravoux negotiated with Slavin concerning the possibility of leaving a French news agency in Berlin and of continuing the publication of the Kurier.

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25X1A \* [REDACTED] Comment: Orders to the press were formerly issued by the Information Directorate headed by General Tyulpanov.

## CONFIDENTIAL

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